

1 **Table 2-5.** Summary comparison of management actions by alternative.

Land Use Allocation or Management Action	No Action Alternative: Continuation of the Current Situation under the 2010 Settlement Agreement	Alternative A: BLM’s Preferred Alternative to Emphasize Management of Resources Other than Wilderness Characteristics	Alternative B: Emphasize Wilderness Characteristics	Alternative C: Emphasize Protection of Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in Identified Areas	Alternative D: Externally Developed Selection Criteria of Areas for Management of Wilderness Characteristics
Summary	Continuation of existing management under the 2002 SEORMP and ROD, as amended, and as required by the 2010 Settlement Agreement. All proposed actions are analyzed to avoid diminishing or eliminating wilderness characteristics.	<p>Reflects management under the 2002 SEORMP and ROD, as amended. The 2002 ROD did not provide specific management or protection of lands with wilderness characteristics.</p> <p>Alternative A would not propose additional land use planning-level resource protection for the wilderness characteristics resources. OHV Area Designations and Grazing Management are not amended.</p>	<p>Management actions would emphasize protection of all 76 wilderness characteristics units (excluding road boundary setbacks).</p> <p>All 76 wilderness characteristics units and all WSAs would be managed as Closed to OHV use off designated roads</p> <p>When a grazing permit is voluntarily relinquished and pastures are within 2010 Settlement Agreement-specified management areas (Table 2-2), the BLM would not re-allocate use to livestock grazing for the life of the RMP.</p> <p>Where the BLM determines livestock grazing practices are a significant causal factor in not meeting Standards for Rangeland</p>	<p>Emphasize protection of identified lands with wilderness characteristics (excluding road boundary setbacks) (27 units). Selection method described in Section 2.3.2., Methodology in developing Alternative C.</p> <p>Twenty-seven (27) wilderness characteristics units would be managed as Limited to existing roads and primitive routes for OHV.</p> <p>Processing voluntary relinquishment of a grazing permit same as the No Action Alternative. The BLM has clarified this process in this alternative.</p> <p>Permit renewal regarding existing grazing practices as a significant causal factor would be managed</p>	<p>Emphasize protection of identified lands with wilderness characteristics (excluding road boundary setbacks) (33 units). Selection method described in Section 2.3.2., Methodology in developing Alternative D.</p> <p>Thirty-three (33) wilderness characteristics units would be managed as Limited to existing roads and primitive routes for OHV.</p> <p>When a permit is voluntarily relinquished, and pastures overlap 2010 Settlement Agreement-specified management areas (Table 2-4), the BLM would not re-allocate use to livestock grazing for the life of the RMP.</p> <p>Where the BLM determines livestock grazing practices are a significant causal factor in not meeting Standards for Rangeland Health, the BLM would</p>

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			Health, the BLM would suspend the grazing permit for the life of the RMP.	as under the No Action Alternative.	complete the Permit Renewal process and temporarily suspend the grazing permit until monitoring identifies the area is making significant progress toward meeting the standard.
<b>Management of Lands with Wilderness Characteristics</b>					
Units Identified to Prioritize Protection of Lands with Wilderness Characteristics  (See Appendix B for unit summaries and maps.)	Management under the 2010 Settlement Agreement: entirety of the areas found to possess wilderness characteristics are managed to not permit any actions that would, “diminish the size or cause the entire BLM inventory unit to no longer meet the criteria for wilderness characteristics.”  Seventy-six (76) units protected for wilderness characteristics: 1,236,907 acres. <b>(Map WC 2)</b>	Management would not establish new land use planning-level direction to prioritize protection of wilderness characteristics.  No additional land use planning protections for wilderness characteristics. <b>(Map WC 1)</b>	All units (excluding setbacks) determined by the BLM to possess wilderness characteristics would be managed to prioritize protection of those characteristics.  This alternative prioritizes all units with wilderness characteristics.  Seventy-six (76) units protected for wilderness characteristics: 1,206,780 acres. <b>(Map WC 3)</b>	Identified areas determined by the BLM to possess wilderness characteristics would be managed for those characteristics.  Protection of units identified by applying BLM’s 2017 analysis methodology.  Twenty-seven (27) units protected for wilderness characteristics: 167,550 acres. <b>(Map WC 4)</b>	Identified areas determined by the BLM to possess wilderness characteristics would be managed for those characteristics.  Protection of units identified by applying the 2017 SEORAC methodology  Thirty-three (33) units protected for wilderness characteristics: 417,196 acres. <b>(Map WC 5)</b>
Road Boundary Setbacks	None	None	Management of units <u>identified</u> in each alternative to be managed to prioritize protection of wilderness characteristics would implement a 250’ boundary road setback from the centerline of the existing road disturbance. Allowable actions in this boundary setback would continue under existing management.		

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Range Improvements and/or Vegetation Treatments	Analyzed on a case-by-case basis	Continuation of existing management	The BLM would allow treatments and other actions designed to maintain or improve ecological conditions and provide multiple use opportunities while emphasizing protecting, preserving and/or enhancing wilderness characteristics.  Range improvements and related activities, and vegetation treatments, in the setbacks would be analyzed based on existing management.  Project-level actions would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.		
Size criteria met for wilderness characteristics based on unit(s) contiguous with existing WSAs	These lands would be managed to maintain the lands with wilderness characteristics	Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Units must meet the minimum size criteria, one component of which is an area may be less than 5,000 acres in size <u>if it is contiguous with</u> (that is, there are no developed features separating the area from) an existing designated WSA. For these areas, should Congress “release” the contiguous WSA(s) from further study status, the adjoining unit would no longer possess wilderness characteristics. It would no longer be protected for its wilderness characteristics and management would revert to that of the adjacent public lands.			
New Road Construction	Road construction which would reduce the size of a wilderness characteristics unit would not be allowed.	Continuation of Existing Management under the 2002 SEORMP and ROD, as amended.	The BLM would not authorize new road construction in units identified for protection of their wilderness characteristics.  Road construction within setbacks would be allowed to meet objectives and would be analyzed at the project level. New road construction would only be authorized where it would not adversely impact the protected area. New road construction would not change the defined setback area at the time of the approved amendment.		
Forest Management	Continuation of Existing Management, with 2010 Settlement Agreement constraints applied to activities that reduce wilderness characteristics in those units.	Continuation of Existing Management under the 2002 SEORMP and ROD, as amended	Active management of forested lands in areas identified to be managed for wilderness characteristics would be allowed to meet the objectives of restoring historic stand densities, composition and structures of forests and woodlands. Mechanical treatments would be limited to these specific forest health and restoration objectives.  Mechanical treatments would be limited to those which meet specific restoration objectives and minimize visual contrast between treated and untreated areas.		

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Timber Harvest	Continuation of Existing Management, with 2010 Settlement Agreement constraints applied to activities which would reduce wilderness characteristics in those units.	Continuation of Existing Management under the 2002 SEORMP and ROD, as amended	The BLM would allow timber harvest in areas managed to protect wilderness characteristics provided that harvest operations are designed to meet the objectives of: VRM Class II and avoiding or minimizing visual contrast between treated areas and untreated, and restoring historic stand densities, composition, and structure.		
Prescribed Fire	Continuation of Existing Management		BLM would allow fire to be used on areas identified to prioritize management to protect wilderness characteristics, to accomplish resource objectives, under favorable environmental conditions.		
Wildfire Suppression and Rehabilitation	Continuation of Existing Management		As necessary, the BLM will conduct fire management actions, emergency stabilization and rehabilitation treatments, hazardous fuels reduction, and ecological restoration treatments in a manner that does not diminish wilderness characteristics and meets VRM class II objectives.		
Fuels Management	Continuation of Existing Management, with 2010 Settlement Agreement constraints applied to activities which would reduce wilderness characteristics in those units	Continuation of Existing Management under the 2002 SEORMP and ROD, as amended	Vegetation treatments in units that are prioritized to protect wilderness characteristics would be allowed to enhance firefighting safety and reduce volatile fuel loading conditions. Treatments may include conifer and shrub density modification, herbicide applications for noxious and invasive species reduction, prescribed fire and seedings of desirable species. Treatments would be designed to meet vegetation restoration and fuels reduction objectives, and to meet VRM Class II objectives.		
Recreation Sites	Continuation of Existing Management		New recreation sites and interpretive resources are allowed in areas managed to protect wilderness characteristics, provided they contribute to preserving and/or enhancing wilderness characteristics. Proposals evaluated on a case-by-case basis.		

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Special Recreation Permits	Continuation of Existing Management		The BLM would consider new permit applications on a case-by-case basis to determine whether activities area consistent with areas identified for an emphasis to protect their wilderness characteristics.		
Visual Resource Management Classification	Continuation of Existing Management <sup>17</sup>  <b>Acres of Visual Resource Management by Classification (acres)</b> VRM Class I: 1,310,934 VRM Class II: 218,248 VRM Class III: 639,234 VRM Class IV: 2,472,503  <b>(Map VRM 1)</b>	All lands with wilderness characteristics units (excluding setback areas) would be designated as Visual Resource Management Class II (unless currently managed as VRM Class I).  <b>Acres of Visual Resource Management by Classification (acres)</b> VRM Class I: 1,310,745 VRM Class II: 1,290,833 VRM Class III: 490,378 VRM Class IV: 1,548,979 <b>(Map VRM 2)</b>	Identified lands with wilderness characteristics units (excluding setback areas) would be designated as Visual Resource Management Class II (unless currently managed as VRM Class I)  <b>Acres of Visual Resource Management by Classification (acres)</b> VRM Class I: 1,310,745 VRM Class II: 349,761 VRM Class III: 617,710 VRM Class IV: 2,362,707 <b>(Map VRM 3)</b>	Identified lands with wilderness characteristics units (excluding setback areas) would be designated as Visual Resource Management Class II (unless currently managed as VRM Class I)  <b>Acres of Visual Resource Management by Classification (acres)</b> VRM Class I: 1,310,745 VRM Class II: 577,723 VRM Class III: 600,474 VRM Class IV: 2,151,898 <b>(Map VRM 4)</b>	

<sup>17</sup> VRM Class II objectives are defined as, “Retain the existing character of the landscape. Allow a low level of change that should not attract the attention of a casual observer.” All VRM class objectives are presented in the Visual Resource Management Section 3.8.16 of Chapter 3.

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<p>Leasable Minerals</p> <p><i>CSU: Controlled Surface Use</i></p> <p><i>NSO: No Surface Occupancy</i></p>	<p><b>Unleased Minerals</b>                      Until the Amendment is completed, proposals for new leasable mineral development will not be implemented if the proposed action is deemed by the BLM to diminish the size or cause an entire BLM inventory unit to no longer meet the criteria for wilderness characteristics.</p> <p><b>Leased Minerals</b>                      Continuation of Existing Management under the 2002 SEORMP and ROD as amended.</p>	<p><b>Unleased Minerals</b>                      Continuation of Existing Management under the 2002 SEORMP and ROD as amended.</p> <p><b>Leased Minerals</b>                      Continuation of Existing Management under the 2002 SEORMP and ROD as amended.</p>	<p><b>Unleased Minerals</b>                      Where leasable minerals are currently unleased, identified areas managed to protect wilderness characteristics would have no surface occupancy (NSO) unless otherwise more restrictive (Closed to leasing). Continuation of existing management (2002 SEORMP and ROD as amended) within the setbacks.</p> <p><b>Leased Minerals</b>                      Where leasable minerals are currently leased, apply the following stipulations to all areas managed for wilderness characteristics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Apply reasonable conservation measures consistent with management of wilderness characteristics.</li> <li>2. Implement design features for management of wilderness characteristics to meet VRM Class II objectives.</li> <li>3. Require Master Development Plans for fluid minerals processing within areas managed for wilderness characteristics.</li> <li>4. Require unitization for fluid minerals when necessary for proper development.</li> <li>5. Identify areas where land acquisitions, including nonfederal mineral rights, may benefit management of wilderness characteristics. If such acquisition is determined to provide a benefit, proceed with acquisition process where appropriate.</li> </ol>		

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Leasable Minerals  <i>CSU: Controlled Surface Use</i>  <i>NSO: No Surface Occupancy</i>	<b>Geophysical Exploration</b> Until the Amendment is completed, proposals for new leasable mineral development will not be implemented if the proposed action is deemed by the BLM to diminish the size or cause an entire BLM inventory unit to no longer meet the criteria for wilderness characteristics.	<b>Geophysical Exploration</b> Continuation of Existing Management under the 2002 SEORMP and ROD as amended.	Continuation of existing management (2002 SEORMP and ROD as amended) within the setbacks.  <b>Geophysical Exploration</b> The BLM would allow geophysical exploration in units managed to emphasize protection of their wilderness characteristics, with appropriate design features to meet VRM Class II objectives and in a manner consistent with the new objective for wilderness characteristics.  Continuation of existing management (2002 SEORMP and ROD as amended) within the setbacks.		
	<b>Leasable Mineral Allocations (acres)</b> No Lease: 1,288,440 NSO: 1,767,976 CSU: 1,800,450 Open: 145,411  (MAP MIN 7)	<b>Leasable Mineral Allocations (acres)</b> No Lease: 1,288,440 NSO: 1,767,976 CSU: 1,800,450 Open: 145,411  (MAP MIN 7)	<b>Leasable Mineral Allocations (acres)</b> No Lease: 1,288,440 NSO: 2,246,378 CSU: 1,339,355 Open: 128,104  (MAP MIN 12)	<b>Leasable Mineral Allocations (acres)</b> No Lease: 1,288,440 NSO: 1,853,091 CSU: 1,715,378 Open: 145,368  (MAP MIN 8)	<b>Leasable Mineral Allocations (acres)</b> No Lease: 1,288,440 NSO: 1,916,396 CSU: 1,662,995 Open: 134,446  (MAP MIN 13)

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<p>Saleable Minerals</p> <p>CSU: Controlled Surface Use</p>	<p>Until the Amendment is completed, proposals for new saleable mineral development will not be implemented if the proposed action is deemed by the BLM to diminish the size or cause an entire BLM inventory unit to no longer meet the criteria for wilderness characteristics.</p> <p>If visual impairment criteria are met, these areas would remain open to free use permits and sales in existing designated pits and common use areas.</p>	<p>Continuation of Existing Management under the 2002 SEORMP and ROD as amended.</p>	<p>All identified units managed to emphasize protection of their wilderness characteristics would be Closed to new mineral material sales. If visual impairment criteria are met, these areas would remain open to free use permits and sales in existing designated pits and common use areas.</p> <p>Continuation of existing management (2002 SEORMP and ROD as amended) within the setbacks.</p>		
	<p><b>Saleable Mineral Allocations (acres):</b>                      Closed: 3,033,405                      Open, CSU: 1,399,733                      Open: 540,739</p> <p><b>(MAP MIN 9)</b></p>	<p><b>Saleable Mineral Allocations (acres):</b>                      Closed: 3,033,405                      Open CSU: 1,399,733                      Open: 540,739</p> <p><b>(MAP MIN 9)</b></p>	<p><b>Saleable Mineral Allocations (acres):</b>                      Closed: 3,511,664                      Open CSU: 962,901                      Open: 499,312</p> <p><b>(MAP MIN 14)</b></p>	<p><b>Saleable Mineral Allocations (acres):</b>                      Closed: 3,120,353                      Open CSU: 1,314,045                      Open: 539,480</p> <p><b>(MAP MIN 10)</b></p>	<p><b>Saleable Mineral Allocations (acres):</b>                      Closed: 3,183,104                      Open CSU: 1,262,725                      Open: 528,048</p> <p><b>(MAP MIN 15)</b></p>



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Land Tenure Zone Category	Continuation of Existing Management  <b>Land Tenure Zone (acres)</b> Zone 1 - (Retention/Acquisition): 4,578,352 Zone 2 - (Exchange): 52,302 Zone 3 - (Disposal): 10,785  <b>(MAP LAND 1)</b>	Continuation of Existing Management  <b>Land Tenure Zone (acres)</b> Same as No Action  <b>(MAP LAND 1)</b>	All public lands managed for the protection of wilderness characteristics would be categorized as Land Tenure Zone 1 (Retention in Public Ownership)  <b>Land Tenure Zone (acres)</b> Zone 1 - (Retention/Acquisition): 4,578,556 Zone 2 - (Exchange): 52,302 Zone 3 - (Disposal): 10,581  <b>(MAP LAND 2)</b>	All public lands managed for the protection of wilderness characteristics would be categorized as Land Tenure Zone 1 (Retention in Public Ownership)  <b>Land Tenure Zone (acres)</b> Same as No Action  <b>(MAP LAND 1)</b>	All public lands managed for the protection of wilderness characteristics would be categorized as Land Tenure Zone 1 (Retention in Public Ownership)  <b>Land Tenure Zone (acres)</b> Same as No Action  <b>(MAP LAND 1)</b>